

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

CHARD RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

- OF THE -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1936.

CHARD RURAL DISTRICT.

- in the -
COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

ENDED 31ST. DECEMBER, 1936.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS:

Medical Officer of Health (part time employed), -
C. C. Court, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector (fully employed), -
E. Whisker, M.S.I.A.

TO: THE CHARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report of the Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics of Chard Rural District for the Year ended 31st December, 1936.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

There was again greatly diminished unemployment during the Year. The Council's Water Schemes with other pipe-laying contracts absorbed the unemployed men during the greater part of the Year. Available females were fully employed in industry in the towns adjoining the district.

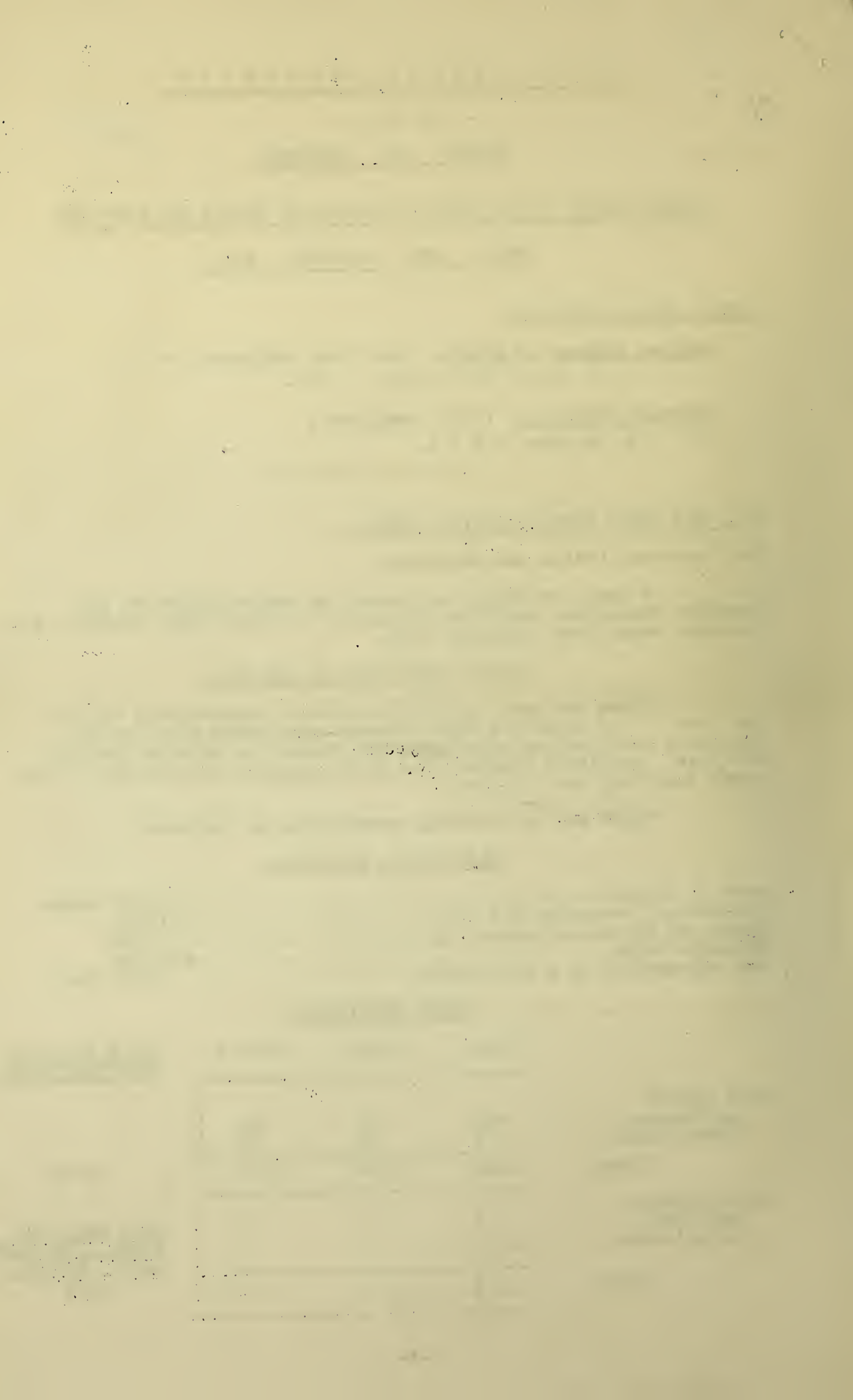
There are no unhealthy occupations in the area.

STATISTICAL MEMORANDA.

Area of District.....	54,600 acres.
Population (Estimated Mid.1936).....	11,230.
Number of Inhabited Houses.....	3,300.
Rateable Value.....	£35,428.
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£156 (net).

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.	<u>Birth Rate per</u> <u>1000 population.</u>
Live Births:				
Legitimate.	135	76	59	12.66
Illegitimate.	7	5	2	
Total	142	81	61	
Still Births:				
Legitimate.	7	5	2	<u>Rate per 1000</u> <u>total (live and</u> <u>still) births.</u>
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	
Total	7	5	2	



The Birth rate, which is the same as for the preceding year, is low as compared with the average for England and Wales, which is 24.8 per 1,000 Population.

Deaths:

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Death Rate per 1000 population.
<u>All causes:</u>	<u>142</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>12.6</u>

Causes of Death:

Cancer.....	15	8	7	Death rate after multiplying with Comparability Factor for comparison with Registrar-General's figures for England and Wales - 10.49 per 1000 population. Registrar-General's figures for England and Wales 12.1.
Respiratory Tuberculosis..	3	2	1	
Other Tuberculosis.....	2	2	-	
Influenza.....	2	2	-	
Appendicitis.....	1	-	1	
Peptic Ulcer.....	1	1	-	
Pneumonia.....	4	1	3	
Bronchitis.....	6	5	1	
Heart Disease.....	35	18	17	
Other Circulatory Diseases	10	5	5	
Cerebral Haemorrhage.....	6	1	5	
Diabetes.....	4	2	2	
Polioencephalitis.....	1	-	1	
Congenital Debility.Premature Birth.....	5	3	2	
Nephritis.Acute & Chronic.	5	4	1	
Digestive Disorders.....	1	-	1	
Liver Disorders.....	1	-	1	
Senility.....	15	5	10	
Suicide.....	2	1	1	
Other Violence.....	6	6	-	
Other defined Diseases....	17	10	7	
Total	<u>142</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>66</u>	

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year:

Legitimate.....	5	3	2
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-
Total	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

Death rate of Infants per 1,000 live Births. 35.2

1936 Average for England and Wales. 59.0

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year divided as follows:-

Under one week.....	3
1 - 4 weeks.....	nil.
1 - 6 months.....	2
6 - 12 months.....	nil.

Deaths from Measles - all agesnil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough - all ages.....nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea - under 2 years.....nil.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:.....nil.

There was no unusual incidence of disease during 1936. There was a mild outbreak of Influenza in the early months of the year as is usual at that season, but though a certain number of bronchial complications followed, the mortality from this condition was low.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

These remain as in my previous reports.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies -

The following public supplies were examined bacteriologically during the year:-

<u>Supply.</u>	<u>Date of Examination.</u>	<u>Bacteriologist's Report.</u>
<u>Combe St. Nicholas:</u>	9/11/36.	No evidence of contamination and the results are satisfactory.
<u>Southchard:</u>	9/11/36.	Some but not marked evidence of contamination. The results are not quite satisfactory.

(1) A Regional Scheme for supplying the northern half of the District comprising 12 Parishes was commenced on 23rd September, 1935, but the completion of the works has been delayed on account of bad weather and other causes, and at the end of 1936 the supply had not been made available.

(2) Tatworth and Forton, Chard Parish.

Scheme, estimated total cost £10,500, commenced 15th September, 1936. Not completed at end of 1936, though some supplies had been commenced, including supply to the Wilts. United Dairies' new butter factory at Chard Junction.

(3) Hewish, West Crewkerne.

Scheme, estimated cost £800, submitted to the Ministry of Health, and Inquiry held 4th February, 1937.

(4) Roundham, West Crewkerne.

Scheme for supplying this hamlet in course of preparation.

(5) Combe St. Nicholas.

Extension of Village supply to Combe Wood and Underway carried out at cost of approximately £300.

Rivers and Streams.

There has been no gross pollution of Rivers and Streams in the area during the past year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There has been no extension of sewers during the year. The existing drains and sewers have been kept in repair. The various sewage disposal systems have worked satisfactorily.

Closet Accommodation.

Number of conservancy closets converted to the water carriage system -

18 closets, providing accommodation for 20 premises.

Scavenging.

A periodic removal of indestructible refuse to dumping places

is carried out in several of the larger villages, and arrangements are now in progress with a view to providing the whole District with a proper scavenging system.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Number of premises visited during the year -	
Primary Inspections.....	450
Re-inspections.....	181
Visits on other sanitary matters, exclusive of above, and also exclusive of housing inspections.....	715
Reports made on result of inspections.....	85
Number of defects or nuisances remedied.....	86
Number of Informal Notices served in respect of 69 premises.....	60
Number of nuisances remedied as result of Notices.....	58

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat:

Number of Slaughter-houses in the District.....	26
(a) Licensed.....	11
(b) Registered.....	15
Number of inspections of Slaughter-houses and Butchers' premises.....	411

Meat condemned during the year:-

<u>Pigs:</u> Heads 10.	Internal organs 26.	Carcases 5.
<u>Sheep:</u> Do. do.	17.	Do. 8.
<u>Oxen:</u> Heads 6.	Do. do.	39.
		Do. 9.

Milk Supply:

Accredited Milk Producers....	12
Tuberculin Tested Milk Producers.....	3
Producers on Register.....	550
Distributors divided as follows:-	
(a) Distributors only.....	2
(b) Distributors who are also producers.....	58
Dairies inspected.....	192
Do. re-inspected.....	42
Cowstalls subject to alterations and improvement.....	20
New Cowstalls erected.....	4
Samples of milk taken and forwarded to the County Laboratory for bacteriological analysis for Tubercle Bacilli.....	33

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(i) With State Assistance:

(a) By the local Authority.....	26
(b) By other bodies or persons.....	Nil.

(ii) Otherwise..... 18

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year -

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	340
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	437

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2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.....187
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....248
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... 43
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....172

Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices -

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... 86

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year -

A. Proceedings under sections 17, 18, 19 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... 9
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
 - (a) By owners (after Undertakings given Section 19)..... 2
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners... Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
 - (a) By owners..... Nil.
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners.. Nil.

C. Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 19
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... 7

D. Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... Nil.

Housing Act, 1935. - Overcrowding.

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..... 37
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein..... 37
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.....270
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... 37

- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... 1
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases.. 5
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... Nil.

SCHOOLS.

The Elementary Schools in the district have been inspected by myself and the Sanitary Inspector, and have been found in a satisfactory sanitary condition. Minor defects in sanitary arrangements when detected have been reported to the Education Authorities and have been dealt with.

The notification of suspected cases of infectious disease has been efficiently carried out by the head teachers, and the circumstances existing have been investigated and where necessary steps taken as to school exclusion and isolation.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1936.

The district was again fortunate in the incidence of notifiable infectious disease. Two cases of Diphtheria were notified, but one was exceedingly mild and only recognisable as such by bacteriological examination; there was no spread in either case.

A serious case of Anterior Poliomyelitis occurred in an adult at Tatworth, it was impossible to trace any source of infection. The case had a sudden onset and ended fatally after a short duration; disinfection was carried out.

Disinfection is carried out by formalin vapour and by liquid spray after cases of notifiable infectious diseases, and also after death or removal of cases of Tuberculosis. There is no steam disinfecter in the area.

LIST OF INFECTIOUS NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

Disease.	Total No. of cases notified.	Cases ad- mitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox.....	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	6	3	-
Diphtheria....	2	1	-
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever.....	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis....	1	1	-
Dysentery.....	-	-	-
Malaria.....	-	-	-
Pneumonia.....	16	1	6
Acute P oliomyelitis.....	1	-	1
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	2	-	-
Other diseases locally notifiable, e.g.Chickenpox..	10	-	-

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. No cases of this disease were notified during 1936.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Years.										
	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45 & over.
Scarlet Fever.....						5	1				
Diphtheria.....						1				1	
Puerperal Pyrexia.....									2		
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.....						1					
Pneumonia.....			1				1	1	2	3	8
Anterior Poliomyelitis (Acute).....										1	
Erysipilas.....									1		1
Chickenpox.....			2		3	5					
Totals	-	-	3	-	3	12	2	1	6	4	9

TUBERCULOSIS.

No action has been found necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The notification of Tuberculosis has been efficiently carried out during the year.

Fewer cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1936 than usual, the numbers being 3 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1936.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0. Years								
1- "				1				
5- "				1				
15- "	1						1	
25- "				1		1		
35- "	1	1						
45- "								
55- "					1			
65- " and up.					1			
Totals	2	1	-	3	2	1	1	-

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been inspected during the year and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Inspections made -

Factories.....	7
Workshops.....	21
	<hr/>
	28

Defects found.....	7
Defects remedied.....	7

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

(sd) C. C. COURT,

Medical Officer of Health,
Chard Rural District Council.

26th June, 1937.

